Operationalising the Radio-Active Wastes storage at Tarapur

1459. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the two projects set up to contain and store radio-active wastes at Tarapur Fuel Reporcessing plant are yet to be made fully operational even though these projects were schedeuled to be completed by 1978 and 1985;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what are the measures taken by Government to effectively tackle the radiatin hazards posed to the surroundings of nuclear plants; and

(d) what is the existing position with regard to making the projects fully operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISITRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The waste immobilisation Plant at Tarapur for treating high level radioactive liquid wastes is fully operational. Construction of the complementary facility for storage of the immobilised high level lradioactive wastes has also been completed. The latter facility is currently under review by the regulatory authorities for clearance from the safety angle. The plant for treating high level radioactive wastes as well as the facility for storage of immobilised wastes are first of their kind to be established in India. They required technical innovations based on the experience gained at various stages, including commissioning trials.

(c) The design of the nuclear plants incorporates a number of technical features specifically aimed at preventing any undue radiation hazard in the public domain. Further, they are operated according to the criteria that are spelt out in detail in the form of technical specifications for plant operations. These include, inter alia, limits on the radioactive substances in the effluents. The effluents are sampled and monitored to ensure that radioactivity is within the stipulated limits. These follow the guidelines of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) which are, in turn, endorsed/ approved by the Indian Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). In addition, Envirnmental Survey Laboratory (ESL) established at each plant site regularly surveys the environment for levels of radio-activity to ensure that the levels are below the specified limits. Experience based on such detailed monitoring over the past several years has, in fact, shown to that the radioactivity levels in the environment around the nuclear plants are only a small fraction of the limits permitted in this regard by the AERB.

(d) The waste Immobilisation Plant is fully operational. The storage facility for the immobilised waste has been constructed and is under review by the regulatory authorities before it becomes operational.

Restructuring of State Level Power Industry

1460. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have suggested some measures to State Governments towards restructuring or reforming the state level power industry;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the State Governments reaction thereto particularly from the Maharashtra Government;

(d) whether Government propose to assist the State Governments in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRTY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (c) Government of India has emphasised in its various communications to the State Governments the need for reforms/ restructuring of the State Power Sector. Some States have initiated efforts for reforms in the power sector in their States but no response has been recieved from Government of Maharashtra in this regard.

(d) and (e) The Government of India is assisting the State in this regard through arranging for multilateral/bilateral assistance for diagnostic studies required for reforms and restructuring. Government of India have also organised several workshops/training programmes for State Governments/State Electricity Board officials to acquaint them of the various options available for restructuring and reforming the electricity sector and upgrade their skills in this regard.

Requests for Extension in Service

1461. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are overburdened with requests for extension to high officials who are due to retire;

(b) if so, what is the total number of such officials who are due to retire and are seeking extension of service; and

(c) whether all such reqests have been rejected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) The total number of Secretary and equivalent level officers who are due to retire during December, 1996 to March, 1997 are 11 None of these officials has made any request seeking extension of service.

(c) Does not arise.

Living and Non-Living Resources in the Sea

1462 SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for exploration and exploitation of living and non-living resources in the sea during the 8th Five Year Plan;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to continue sustainable explotation of these resources during the 9th Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(d) the fund provisioins made therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGENDRA K. ALAGH): (a) The steps taken by the Government for exploration and exploitation of the marine living and non-living resources during the 8th Five Year Plan, include;

Living Resources:

(i) Assessment of the potential for living resources in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), for pelagic, demersal and deep sea fishery resources.

(ii) Implementation of programmes for:

—diversified survey and experimental fishing;

— development and exploitation of coastal marine fisheries through motorisation of traditional fishing craft, introduction of plywood craft, intermediate craft, enforcement of